

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 MC-02 ACDA-19 EB-11 AID-20

COA-02 DLOS-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /182 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR - KLWAUCHOPE:JMICHEL

APPROVED BY ARA - HWSHLAUDEMAN

DOD/ISA - RGOODEN

PM/ISO - FFLEMINGS

ARA/CAR - JRBURKE

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O R 092105Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 004586

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, UK, US, BF

SUBJ: BASE NEGOTIATIONS - BRITISH DRAFTS

REFERENCE: NASSAU 1968; NASSAU 1969; NASSAU 1970

1. DEPARTMENT ANL DOD FIND UK REDRAFTS OF AIDE MEMOIRE AND OPERATING RIGHTS AGREEMENT TO BE BASICALLY COMPATIBLE WITH INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY MADE AVAILABLE TO USG. DEPARTMENT AND DOD EXPERTS WILL REQUIRE TIME TO EXAMINE IN DETAIL UK REDRAFTS TO DETERMINE AREAS OF DIVERGENCE FROM US DRAFTS ON WHICH O'CONNEL MAY FOCUS. ONE EXAMPLE IS PARA 3(A) OF UK OPERATING RIGHTS REDRAFT, UNDER WHICH GCOB WOULD BE OBLIGATED TO GRANT ONLY REASONABLE REQUESTS FOR MOVEMENT OF UK FORCES; IN SUBPARA (1) OF US DRAFT, HOWEVER, WE SEEK FULL FREEDOM OF ACCESS AND MOVEMENT FOR AIRCRAFT OPERATED BY OR UNDER CONTROL OF US FORCES, WITHOUT ANY REFERENCE TO

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MOVEMENT OF THE FORCES THEMSELVES.

2. DEPARTMENT DOES NOT FORESEE INSUPERABLE POLITICAL PROBLEM IN NON-PUBLICATION OF US OPERATING RIGHTS AGREEMENT, ALTHOUGH TEXT WOULD HAVE TO BE FURNISHED TO CONGRESS AND WE WOULD HAVE TO JUSTIFY ITS CLASSIFICATION IN TERMS OF NATIONAL SECURITY. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE UNCLASSIFIED OPERATING RIGHTS AGREEMENT IS CLEARLY PREFERABLE, PARTICULARLY IN OBTAINING PRACTICAL PROBLEMS AS MIGHT ARISE IN COURSE OF AGREEMENT'S IMPLEMENTATION. ACCORDINGLY, DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS COOL RESPONSE TO ANY GCOB OVERTURES IN THIS REGARD.

3. DEPARTMENT AND DOD ENVISAGE THAT A LEASE RENEWABLE ANNUALLY FOR A 15 YEAR TERM WOULD BE SIGNED CONCURRENTLY WITH THE FACILITIES, OPERATING RIGHTS AND SOFA AGREEMENTS. WE WOULD PREFER THAT THESE AGREEMENTS NOT RPT NOT IDENTIFY SPECIFIC RIGHTS GRANTED TO USG IN CONSIDERATION FOR ITS OVERALL QUID PACKAGE. WE WOULD EXPECT GCOB ALSO TO DESIRE CONFIDENTIALITY FOR THESE AGREEMENTS TO THE EXTENT THEY REFER TO BAHAMIAN DEFENSE NEEDS AND/OR PLANS FOR EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION. WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO GCOB LATER PUBLICIZING VALUE OF WHAT IT HAD OBTAINED FROM USG SO LONG AS WE REMAIN FREE TO CHARACTERIZE OUR CONTRIBUTION AS AN ELEMENT IN USG-GCOB BILATERAL RELATIONS NOT IDENTIFIED WITH PARTICULAR MILITARY RIGHTS. IN THIS WAY, WE WOULD HOPE TO AVOID HAVING OUR QUID BECOME A PRECEDENT AND, THUS, A STARTING POINT FOR FUTURE BASE NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. EMBASSY SHOULD AVOID GCOB EFFORTS TO COMPARE US QUID OF \$7.5 MILLION (\$500,000 PER ANNUM FOR A 15 YEAR PERIOD) WHICH IS PRELIMINARY, WITH UK QUID OF \$10 MILLION, WHICH APPARENTLY IS FINAL OFFER. FINAL US QUID WILL BE DETERMINED DURING COURSE OF FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS. IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, WE DESIRE TO AVOID TRILATERAL FORUM TO DISCUSS QUID AS SUCH COULD PROVIDE GCOB OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY US OFF AGAINST UK, OR VICE VERSA. KISSINGER

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